



## Multi-media Story Telling

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Stories have been around for a long time. Centuries ago stories were shared through voice and later written down and eventually published. Today we live in a world of multi-media and we can tell stories differently.

### A HISTORY OF STORIES

As long as there have been people on the earth there have been stories. People communicated with each other and oral histories were passed down through the generations. Estimates put the beginnings of literature with Egyptian hieroglyphics. Early examples like the Epic of Gilgamesh were supposedly created before 2000 BC. The printing press came around 1440 and centuries later printed genealogies in the form of descendant books were created. Much of family story telling today happens online, through emails, social media and blogs. In fact, one of the largest story archives is a place called [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/) with more than 500 hours of video uploaded every hour. Anyone can make a 2 minute video today using free tools and share a digital memory that can last a lifetime. The purpose of this class is to help you tell a digital story by following a few simple steps.

### DECIDE WHICH STORIES YOU WANT TO TELL

Take a piece of paper and a pencil and give yourself two minutes to write down all the memories you can think of from when you were born to the present day. If you don't want to do yourself, write down memories from a friend or loved one. Choose 2 memories and turn them into a story by gathering a few digital items. Limit your story to about 200 words or so.

### PHOTOS

Let's start with one of the memories you wrote down. Do you have any photos of this memory? You may need to digitize some photos. Once you have some digital copies, put them into a folder on your computer or phone or tablet. Try to get a least 10-20 different photos to work with. Once you have these you can edit them to be sure they look good. Here are a few photos tools to consider:

1. [Google photos](https://photos.google.com/) – this is a free photo tool from Google. You can easily create videos, organize your photos, and the mobile functionality is great! It's the best photo tool out there.
2. [Picasa](https://picasa.google.com/) – this is another free photo tool from Google. This allows you to edit/organize photos, create collages, and make videos as well.
3. [Photoshop](https://www.adobe.com/photshop/) – this is probably the best known photo tool and it comes from Adobe. You'll have to pay for this one but the features are top of the line.

4. [Gimp](#) – this is a free open source photo tool which works on all operating systems.

## AUDIO

Be sure you a good audio file(s) for your story. You may already have some audio recordings and if so use those. However, many times you will need to create these clips. The easiest way to do this is probably on your phone. Try to record yourself or someone describing the photo(s) they are looking at. This will make it easier to blend the photo and audio.

More:

1. [Audacity](#) – this is an open source audio editing tool and it has lots of great features.
2. [Adobe Voice](#) – this app has a lot of templates you can use to build simple stories.
3. [Dragon Naturally Speaking](#) – this is a speech recognition software option.
4. Voice recording apps for [iOS](#) and [Android](#) – browse around to find different voice apps to record what you want.

## VIDEO

Once you have your stories, some photos and some audio files you should be ready to create a video. There are several video creation tools to choose from. When you create your videos don't forget to add text (i.e. titles, captions, etc.) Most of video creation is just drag and drop. If you want more help, just Google the different video tools and/or watch some YouTube videos.

More:

1. [Movie Maker](#) - If you have a PC you will probably want to use this tool and if you have a newer computer you'll probably need to download it.
2. [iMovie](#) - iMovie which comes standard on Mac devices and now is free in the app store.
3. [Vemory](#) - Vemory lets you create simple videos using your Facebook photos.

## SHARING

Once you have a video created it's easy to share it. You might want to start by putting it in [Dropbox](#) or [Google Drive](#) and then let people know about it. This way you can keep it private. You can also share it on [Facebook](#) or put it up on YouTube and this will allow a larger audience to access it.

## NEXT STEPS

Pick up your pen or your phone and start capturing something!